

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 105 – HB 387

March 15, 2013

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Enacts the “Tennessee Alternative Diploma Act”. Requires the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) and the State Board of Education (SBE) to design and implement a test that will award a credential for individuals who did not graduate high school. The credential shall be known as the Tennessee Alternative Diploma (TAD). Requires various agencies to assist in the design of the test and requires LWD to consult on the design and development of the TAD. Requires receipt of the TAD to be equivalent to the receipt of the General Education Development (GED) credential. By February 1, 2013, LWD shall make the report that is required of the Department by Chapter 787 of the Public Acts of 2012. LWD and the SBE shall report make a progress report on TAD creation to the Education Committees of the General Assembly by February 1, 2014. Requires the test to be developed and fully implemented on January 1, 2015.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures - \$863,500/One-Time
Exceeds \$500,000/Recurring

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (004712): Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Deletes and rewrites Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-3-122 such that the section will be referred to as the “Tennessee Alternative Diploma Act”. Such Act requires the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) to make recommendations relative to assessments that will lead to the award of a high school equivalency credential. Requires the State Board of Education (SBOE) to review LWD recommendations. Recommendations that are approved by the SBOE shall be considered a high school equivalency assessment and passage of this assessment shall lead to the award of a high school equivalency credential. LWD may consult with or request assistance from other departments as needed.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

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Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-3-1422 currently requires LWD to develop and implement a program for non-high school graduates that will lead to such individuals obtaining a high school equivalent credential that is not a General Equivalency Diploma (GED).
- LWD will make recommendations to the SBOE without a significant increase in state expenditures.
- SBOE will approve recommendations in the normal course of business without an increase in meetings. Any increase in state expenditures is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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